



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **LOCAL ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD**

**Wichita, Kansas** – United States Attorney Eric Melgren is pleased to announce that a national award for an Outstanding OCDETF investigation, Operation Red Dog, has been awarded to Assistant United States Attorneys David Lind and Mona Furst; agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration Wichita Resident Office; Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent Victor Montemayor; Federal Bureau of Investigation Agents Barry Petru and John Sullivan; officers with the Wichita Police Department; Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper Darrell Pressnell and another Kansas Highway Patrol Trooper.

Operation Red Dog was a two year investigation that targeted a large Mexican drug organization, an organization responsible for the importation of methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin from Mexico, to Kansas, Arizona, Oklahoma, Illinois, Colorado and Nebraska. During the time of this investigation, this drug organization was responsible for approximately half of all illegal drugs distributed in Wichita. The investigation resulted in the arrest of 65 defendants across the country, and the seizure of 35 pounds of methamphetamine, 8 kilograms (17.6 pounds) of cocaine, 55 pounds of marijuana, several guns, and \$82,704 in cash. As a result of the dedicated work of the agents and prosecutors in this case, this drug organization was successfully dismantled. This investigation was a collaborative effort of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Wichita Police Department, the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office, and the United States Attorney's Office.

OCDETF is one of the top priorities of the United States Department of Justice. At it's 2004 Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. last week, an award was presented for the outstanding investigation in each of 9 national OCDETF regions. Kansas is in the West Central region, which comprises 15 federal judicial districts in 12 states. Operation Red Dog was recognized as the year's outstanding investigation for that region.

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“I am proud to announce this award,” said U.S. Attorney Eric Melgren. “Through the hard work and dedication of investigators and prosecutors, the supply of illegal drugs in the Wichita area was disrupted and a large drug organization was dismantled. This administration has made the investigation and prosecution of multi-state, organized drug rings a top priority and this priority is shared by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Kansas. Congratulations to all recipients for this well-deserved award.”

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